Complaint - 1

### II. JURISDICTION

2. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692k (d).

### III. PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, Patrick Morris ("Plaintiff"), is a natural person residing in San Bernardino county in the state of California, and is a "consumer" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3) and is a "debtor" as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(h).
- 4. At all relevant times herein, Defendant, Crosscheck Inc., ("Defendant") was a company engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of collecting a debt from Plaintiff which qualifies as a "debt," as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5), and a "consumer debt," as defined by Cal Civ Code §1788.2(f). Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another, and therefore is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and RFDCPA, Cal Civ Code §1788.2(c).

### IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

5. At various and multiple times prior to the filing of the instant complaint, including within the one year preceding the filing of this complaint, Defendant contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an alleged outstanding debt.

Complaint - 2

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- Plaintiff initially spoke to a representative, Barbara, in late 6. December 2010, after the holidays, in connection with an attempt to collect an allege debt.
- 7. On February 11, 2011, Barbara left Plaintiff two harsh messages in connection with an attempt to collect the alleged debt.
- 8. On February 16, 2011, Plaintiff contacted CrossCheck and spoke to a different representative, Teresa, who had previously left courteous and professional voicemails. Plaintiff and Teresa agreed to a payment plan and was tiansferred to Haley Martinez to record the agreement. Ms. Martinez changed the payment amounts and fees during the recording, which were not the terms that Plaintiff had agreed on.
- Ms. Martinez accused Plaintiff of being "a thief, a criminal, and for 9. stealing merchandise [he] didn't pay for". Ms. Martinez further went on to say, Mr. Morris was "a person who doesn't like to pay his bills", and threatening that he "could be arrested and go to jail." Ms. Martinez hung up the phone and Plaintiff immediately called back and spoke to Teresa.
- 10. Teresa informed Plaintiff that Ms. Martinez was her supervisor, so Plaintiff asked who Ms. Martinez's supervisor was. At which point, Ms. Martinez got on the phone and threatened that the alleged debt had to be paid in full or it

would be sent to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution and hung up the phone again.

- 11. Plaintiff called back to discuss how it turned from paying the debt to going to jail, Ms. Martinez immediately answered claiming that Plaintiff was harassing her and hung up on Plaintiff again.
- 12. Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA and the RFDCPA in multiple ways, including but not limited to:
  - a) Engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse Plaintiff (§1692d));
  - b) In connection with collection of a debt, using or threatening to use violence or other criminal means to harm the physical person, reputation, or property of Plaintiff (§1692d(1));
  - c) Falsely representing or implying that nonpayment of Plaintiff's debt would result in the seizure, garnishment, attachment, or sale of Plaintiff's property or wages, where such action is not lawful or Defendant did not intend to take such action (§1692e(4));
  - d) Threatening to take an action against Plaintiff that cannot be legally taken or that was not actually intended to be taken (§1692e(5));
  - e) Using unfair or unconscionable means against Plaintiff in connection with an attempt to collect a debt (§1692f));

- f) Collecting an amount from Plaintiff that is not expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt (§1692f(1));
- g) Collecting an amount from Plaintiff that is not permitted by law (§1692f(1));
- h) Using false representations and deceptive practices in connection with collection of an alleged debt from Plaintiff (§1692e(10);
- i) Falsely representing the character, amount, or legal status of Plaintiff's debt (§1692e(2)(A));
- j) Threatening Plaintiff that nonpayment of Plaintiff's debt may result in the arrest of Plaintiff or the seizure, garnishment, attachment or sale of any property or the garnishment or attachment of wages of Plaintiff, where such action was not in fact contemplated by the debt collector and permitted by the law (Cal Civ Code §1788.10(e));
- k) Threatening to take an action against Plaintiff that is prohibited by § 1788 of the California Civil Code (Cal Civ Code §1788.10(f)); and
- 1) Falsely representing that a legal proceeding has been, is about to be, or will be instituted unless payment of a consumer debt is made (Cal Civ Code §1788.13(j)).
- 13. As a result of the above violations of the FDCPA and RFDCPA Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer injury to Plaintiff's feelings, personal humiliation, embarrassment, mental anguish and emotional distress, and

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Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for Plaintiff's actual damages, statutory damages, and costs and attorney's fees.

## COUNT I: VIOLATION OF FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

14. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant for the following:

- A. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- B. Actual damages;
- C. Statutory damages;
- D. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and,
- E. For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

# COUNT II: VIOLATION OF ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 15. Plaintiff reincorporates by reference all of the preceding paragraphs.
- 16. To the extent that Defendant's actions, counted above, violated the RFDCPA, those actions were done knowingly and willfully.
- 17. Further, §1788.17 of the RFDCPA mandates that every debt collector collecting or attempting to collect a consumer debt shall comply with the provisions of Sections 1692b to 1692j, inclusive, of, and shall be subject to

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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

#### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge R. Gary Klausner and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Sheri Pym.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV11- 4018 RGK (SPx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

#### **NOTICE TO COUNSEL**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[X] Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Southern Division
411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134 Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Case 2:11-cv-04018-RGK-SP Document 1	Filed 05/11/11 Page 9 of 11 Page ID #:15
Todd M. Friedman, Esq. Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, P.C. 369 S. Doheny Dr., #415 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Phone: 877-206-4741 Fax: \$66-633-0228	DORICHAL
	DISTRICT COURT CT OF CALIFORNIA
PATRICK MORRIS	CASE NUMBER
PLAINTIFF(S) v. CROSSCHECK INC.	CV11-04018PGK (SPX)
	SUMMONS
DEFENDANT(S).	
must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached $\square$ counterclaim $\square$ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 1 or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney. To	2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer dd M. Friedman , whose address is #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 . If you fail to do so,
MAY 1 1 2011 Dated:	Clerk, U.S. District Court  By:
	(Seal of the Court)
[Use 60] days if the defendant is the United States or a United States 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	s agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed
CV-01A :12/07) SUMN	MONS

# , , , Çase 2:11-cv-04018-RGK-SP Document 1 Filed 05/11/11 Page 10 of 11 Page ID #:16

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

	CIVIL COVER SHEET			
I (a) PLAIN (IFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) PATREEK MORRIS	DEFENDANTS CROSSCHECK INC.			
(b) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are reyourself provide same.)  Todd M. Friedman, Esq. Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman, P.C. 369 S. Eloheny Dr., #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90211	epresenting Attorneys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OI JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES - For Diversity Cases Only (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	PTF DEF PTF DEI  Citizen of This State			
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State  2 2 1 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 of Business in Another State			
	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country 3 3 Foreign Nation 6 6			
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.)				
✓ 1 Original Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Reopened State Court Appellate Court Proceeding State Court Reopened State Court R				
V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: Yes D	No (Check 'Yes' only if demanded in complaint.)			
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.P. 23:  Yes No	☐ MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)  15 USC 1692 Violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act				
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only.)				
Foreign a control of the control of	Barrens of the control of the contro			
400 State Reapportionment   110 Insurance   2310   3430   345   3460   345   3460   345	Marine Product Liability         □ 422 Appeal 28 USC   555 Prison Condition         □ 555 Prison Condition         □ 158 □ 555 Prison Condition         □ 555 Prison Condition         □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act         □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act         □ 610 Agriculture         □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act         □ 820 Copyrights         □ 820 Copyrights         □ 820 Copyrights         □ 820 Copyrights         □ 830 Patent         □ 830 Patent         □ 840 Trademark         □ 840 Trademark         □ 840 Trademark         □ 861 HIA (1395ff)         □ 862 Black Lung (923)         □ 863 DIWC/DIWW         □ 864 SSID Title XVI         □ 865 RSI (405(g))         □ 865 RSI (405(g))         □ 865 RSI (405(g))         □ 865 RSI (405(g))			
01111				
FOR OFFICIALISE ONLY: Case Number:  AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.				
ALTER COME LETING THE TROM I SIDE OF I	CANADA AND CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR REQUESTED DECOM.			

## Case 2:11-cv-04018-RGK-SP Document 1 Filed 05/11/11 Page 11 of 11 Page ID #:17

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: If yes, list case number(s):	Has this action been pr	reviously filed in this court a	nd dismissed, remanded or closed? ☑ No □ Yes	
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? • No				
. D.C	A. Arise from the same B. Call for determination. For other reasons w	e or closely related transaction on of the same or substantia could entail substantial duplic	ons, happenings, or events; or Ily related or similar questions of law and fact; or cation of labor if heard by different judges; or t, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.	
IX. VENUE: When completing t	he following informat	ion, use an additional sheet i	if necessary.)	
(a) List the County in this Distric	t; California County o	outside of this District; State	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides.  this box is checked, go to item (b).	
County in thi District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
San Bernard no				
			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides.  If this box is checked, go to item (c).	
County in thi			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
	_		Sonoma	
(c) List the County in this Distric			if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose.	
County in thi District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country	
San Bernardino				
* Los Angeles Orange, San Bern Note: In land condemnation cases,			San Luis Obispo Counties	
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY	(OR PRO PER):		Date May 7, 2011	
Notice to Counsel/Parties: or other pipers as required by l	The CV-71 (JS-44) (iaw. This form, approv	ed by the Judicial Conference	rmation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings see of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ting the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)	
Key to Statistical codes relating to	Social Security Cases:			
Nature of Suit Code	e Abbreviation	Substantive Statement o	f Cause of Actiou	
361	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))		
1362	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)		
В63	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
363	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
i364	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.		
365	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42		

CV-71 (05/08) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 2 of 2

U.S.C. (g))